

**TOWN OF ROYALSTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2006  
7:00 P.M.**

Present: Andrew West, Chairman; Thomas Kellner, Clerk; and Linda Alger, Member.

1. Chairman West called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. The minutes of the 10/17/06 meeting were read. One addition was made and noted. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
3. Verizon – Phone Service Problems: Carol Beribeau, Verizon's Regional Director of Public Affairs for Central and Western Mass., was present to speak about a series of phone problems in South Royalston. She stated that the new Operations Manager checked into the problems immediately after starting in her position. She found that the problems stem from equipment on River Road. Dial tone was being shared, which prevented others from using their phones. Everything has been moved from the system and all lines will have their own dial tone. Ms. Beribeau feels that this will resolve the issue. Discussion was held regarding problems with phones at the DPW office, and on Bliss Hill and Butterworth Roads. Ms. Beribeau stated that she would check into these problems. She also noted that there are no plans for high speed Internet or cable in Royalston.
4. Pole Hearing – Mr. West opened the pole hearing for nine new JO poles on Brown Road. Verizon representative Scott Burns was present. Larry Siegel, Tree Warden, said that he was not notified in writing about this pole hearing; however, he did check the area and found that there are 1 or 2 trees larger than 6-7" that would have to be cut, along with several dead trees. A preliminary tree hearing was held and issues were raised regarding placement of the poles. Action was postponed dependent on actions taken tonight. Keith Newton reported that the proposed pole locations look ok except one at Beaver Brook that would damper maintenance efforts. He would like to see the pole moved 15 feet north. Jack Morse stated that he objected because Keith Newton had not been consulted before the plan for pole placement was devised. He also had a concern about one pole that would be placed too close to a tree and would kill the root system. Mr. West suggested that Mr. Burns research the requested changes and communicate thru Mr. Newton at the DPW. In the future, Mr. Newton will be involved in the preliminaries. Mr. West adjourned the pole hearing at 7:55 p.m.
5. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
  - a) Mr. Kellner has spoken with a staff person at UMASS Agricultural regarding trees on the common. They stated that they do not want to be involved with a municipality due to liability issues. David Hawkins of Pelham is an arborist who charges \$90/hour. Mr. West said that we are looking for more of a landscape architect.
  - b) Mr. West stated that most of the streetlights have been repaired.
  - c) Vicky Paine presented the Board with cost estimates for the fence around the water tank. The estimates range from \$14,000 - \$16,000. Marty Paine suggested that the Board and the Water Department send a joint letter to Senator Brewer requesting his help in securing funds for this fence. Ms. Alger will write this letter.
  - d) Mr. Kellner made a motion to sign invoices from Kopelman & Paige. Ms. Alger seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
  - e) Mr. Kellner made a motion to accept with regrets the resignation of Larry Siegel from the Conservation Commission. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - f) Mr. Deegan presented a letter to the Board in response to their most recent correspondence to him. He also requested a meeting with the Board regarding a complaint about a town employee. Mr. West asked that Mr. Deegan put his complaint in writing.

6. Department Head Reports:
  - a) Fire Department –
    - 1) Service Zone Planning: Fire Chief Wayne Newton was not present at the meeting. Gary Winitzer said that a plan must be approved by the state by the end of the year. Notices were sent out in 2004. The planning is to be completed by the Board of Selectmen.
    - 2) Ms. Alger made a motion to appoint Jane Porter as a member of the Fire Department. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - b) DPW – Keith Newton reported that the drainage project at the Village School is complete. The next step is for DEP to inspect it. The water purification system will be up and running after this inspection.
  - c) Police Department –
    - 1) Chief Deveneau asked that the Board set up interviews for candidates for the vacancies in his department. He will forward resumes, applications, and other information to the Board.
7. Phil Delorey – Re DHCD Grant: Mr. Delorey stated that informational mailers have been sent out. He has received several calls, but no applications at this time. Mr. Delorey noted that the Community Development Plan must be updated. He will contact Helen Divoll to get names of committee members to call for this information.
8. John Hill – Mr. Hill was present to discuss an issue with his property. There have been No Trespass notices posted on his property by Chief Deveneau due to complaints from abutters about the legality of the right of way that Mr. Hill uses to access his property. After a lengthy discussion, the Board recommended that Mr. Hill go through the land court process to resolve his issue.
9. 63 North Fitzwilliam Road – Geoffrey Newton reported on an issue he is working on with Duane Boudreau, who is currently residing in an unregistered camping trailer at 63 North Fitzwilliam Road. The ZBA has denied a request from Mr. Boudreau to move a mobile home to another location on his property. The Conservation Commission has issued a cease and desist order because of wetlands on the property, and the Board of Health is also involved because of improper disposal of waste. Mr. Newton is currently dealing with the problem in housing court. Mr. Boudreau has now contacted National Grid and requested temporary electrical service at his property. Ted Neale, Electrical Inspector, explained the process for obtaining a permit for electrical service. Mr. Newton has asked Mr. Neale not to authorize this service due to the pending case. Mr. Neale has not yet received an application for a permit. He will forward the application to the Board if/when he receives it so they may take proper action. Mr. Newton will keep the Board informed about this case.
10. Mr. West will talk to the Assessors regarding sending out estimated tax bills. The Tax Classification hearing scheduled for tonight was not held, as there was no member of the Board of Assessors present.
11. Ms. Alger made a motion to have Mr. Kellner, as Clerk, and herself, in lieu of Mr. West, who recused himself, sign the Village School's grant application to USDA. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Kellner and Ms. Alger, yes, with Mr. West abstaining.
12. The Treasury Warrant was signed.
13. At 9:45 p.m., Mr. Kellner made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.